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BEDFORD

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1955

H. S. BURY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

D. T. MATTHEWS, M.I.Mun.E., M.R.S.I.

Sanitary Inspector.





## To the Chairman and Members of the Bedford Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The health of the district during 1955, as measured by the absence of any serious epidemic of infectious disease and by the relatively low death rates under the age of 65 years, appears satisfactory by present standards. The health of the community is still capable of much improvement, particularly in the degree of health rather than the length of life, and continuous effort will be necessary to secure this.

The dramatic improvement in the vital statistics which is an encouraging feature of post war years, is founded on several factors. Some, such as full employment, are economic and outside the control of this Authority. Any change in such factors may have an effect on the state of public health.

Four of the most important public health duties of a Sanitary Authority are:— to ensure an adequate supply of pure water for domestic use; to arrange the removal of harmful and dangerous waste matter; to ensure that all families are adequately housed and to see that supplies of food and drink on sale to the public are safe from infection and contamination.

A supply of pure and safe water is now available to almost every inhabitant of the district. This is a matter of great satisfaction in a district with such a scattered population. Unfortunately, the availability of a good water supply has changed the habits of many rural dwellers who are now producing much more waste water than previously. This has resulted in an increase in the amount of pollution in many ditches and watercourses in the district. In order to deal with this, the Council has placed in contract nearly one million pounds worth of work on sewerage and sewage disposal and has had two other sizeable schemes approved but temporarily shelved due to credit restrictions. The Council's sewerage contract No. 1 for seven parishes is providing main drainage schemes in six parishes in the River Ouse valley upstream of Bedford. During the next year or so, the sources of pollution in these villages will be transferred to the drainage system and the unsatisfactory river and ditch conditions will disappear. Similar results will

obtain from contract No. 2 at present in its early stages of construction, and subsequently from Eaton Socon, Cotton End and other parishes for which the Council can secure approval to main drainage schemes.

As for housing circumstances, it is most disappointing that some 10 years after the war, in spite of the erection of over 650 Council houses, the numbers on the waiting list for new houses appears to be as great as ever, although only a few of the 249 unfit houses which were discovered by the Rural Housing Survey completed in 1951, have been dealt with. There are still families living in vans or with no separate homes of their own. It is essential that some means are found to build a large number of new houses and improve many others, and to prevent still others from becoming beyond repair through the economic impossibility of carrying out adequate maintenance. It is quite impossible to rear mentally and physically healthy citizens in some of the housing conditions which are to be seen in the district.

The recent legislation enacted in the Food and Drugs (Amendment) Act, 1954, the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 and the Food Hygiene Regulations of 1955 have considerably extended the powers of this Authority and its officers, to supervise the standards of hygiene amongst food handlers and although it is too early to say what the ultimate effect will be, there are indications that the standards are improving rapidly and that the public are becoming more conscious of the importance of cleanliness in the handling of food.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the District Council and the staff for their help and co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

H. S. BURY,

*Medical Officer of Health*

June, 1956.



# BEDFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR 1955

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### 1. OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

<i>Medical Officer of Health</i>	H. S. BURY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
<i>Sanitary Inspector, Surveyor and Water Engineer</i>	D. T. MATTHEWS, M.I.Mun.E., M.R.S.I.
<i>Additional Sanitary Inspector and Assistant Surveyor</i>	R. J. CREWDSON, A.R.I.C.S., Cert. S.I.E.J.B.
<i>Additional Sanitary Inspectors</i>	F. S. SETCHELL, A.I.A.S., M.R.S.I. D. B. MILLS, A.R.S.H., M.S.I.A.
<i>Assistant Water Engineer</i>	R. J. MINNS

### 2. GENERAL STATISTICS RELATING TO THE DISTRICT

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	112,590
Population—										
Census for 1951	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30,688
Registrar General's estimate of home population mid-year 1955								...		32,030
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,673
Rateable value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£164,503
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£630

### 3. SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Non-agricultural industries in the area consist of brickworks at Stewartby and Kempston Hardwick, leather dressing at Harrold and Odell, and the National Aeronautical Establishment north of Bedford. The main industry, however, is still agriculture consisting principally of arable land with considerable areas of pasture, especially in the Ouse Valley. Industries in the Borough of Bedford and the Urban District of Rushden give employment to residents of nearby villages in this Rural District.

The National Aeronautical Establishment is still under construction, although some large projects have been completed and are being used. This Establishment is attracting considerable population, part of which consists of temporary structural employees, many of whom reside in hostels or caravans. Other hostels are used in connection with the brickworks.

### 4. VITAL STATISTICS

#### LIVE BIRTHS

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	233	239	472
Illegitimate	...	...	...	14	15	29
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	247	254	501
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Crude Birth Rate	...	...	...	15·6 per 1,000 home population		
Comparable Birth Rate	...	...	...	18·6	„	„
(The comparability factor for the district being 1·19)						

As compared with:—

Average of last 5 years	...	...	...	14·6 per 1,000 home population		
Rate for Bedfordshire	...	...	...	15·4	„	„
Rate for England and Wales	...	...	...	15·0	„	„

#### STILL BIRTHS

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	1	3	4
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	1	1
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	1	4	5
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Still Birth Rate	...	...	...	10·0 per 1,000 live and still births		

As compared with:—

Average of last 5 years	...	...	...	20·9	„	„	„	„	„
Rate for Bedfordshire	...	...	...	19·7	„	„	„	„	„
Rate for England and Wales	...	...	...	23·1	„	„	„	„	„

## DEATHS

			<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Deaths in the District	...	...	133	95	228
Transferred into District	...	...	65	64	129
Transferred from District	...	...	3	1	4
			<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>
Total	...	...	195	158	353
			<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>
Crude Death Rate	...	...	11·0 per 1,000 home population		
Comparable Death Rate	...	...	10·1	„	„

(The comparability factor for the District being ·92)

As compared with:—

Average of last 5 years	...	...	9·9 per 1,000 home population		
Rate for Bedfordshire	...	...	10·6	„	„
Rate for England and Wales	...	...	11·7	„	„

## DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

			<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	6	8	14
Illegitimate	...	...	—	—	—
			<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>
Total	...	...	6	8	14
			<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>

Infant Mortality Rate ... 27·9 per 1,000 related births

As compared with:—

Average of last 5 years	...	...	24·6	„	„	„	„
Rate for Bedfordshire	...	...	18·0	„	„	„	„
Rate for England and Wales	...	...	24·9	„	„	„	„

## DEATHS CONNECTED WITH CHILDBIRTH

Maternal Mortality ... Nil per 1,000 total live and still births

As compared with:—

Average of last 5 years	...	...	Nil	„	„	„	„	„	„
Rate for Bedfordshire	...	...	0·79	„	„	„	„	„	„
Rate for England and Wales	...	...	0·64	„	„	„	„	„	„



PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH

Causes	Under 15 years		15-65		over 65		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. Tuberculosis, other ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
3. Syphilitic disease ...	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
4. Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8. Measles ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	—	—	3	—	5	5	8	5
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	—	—	3	1	5	1	8	2
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	—	—	9	5	15	6	24	11
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16. Diabetes ...	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	—	—	2	7	17	20	19	27
18. Coronary disease, angina ...	—	—	8	1	23	5	31	6
19. Hypertension with heart disease	—	—	1	1	2	2	3	3
20. Other heart disease ...	—	—	4	3	20	33	24	36
21. Other circulatory disease ...	—	—	1	2	7	11	8	13
22. Influenza ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
23. Pneumonia ...	—	—	2	—	7	8	9	8
24. Bronchitis ...	—	—	3	—	10	3	13	3
25. Other diseases of respiratory system ...	—	—	1	—	2	2	3	2
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	—	2	—	3	—	5	—
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	1	—	1	1	1	1	3
28. Nephritis and nephrosis ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
29. Hyperplasia of prostate ...	—	—	—	—	4	—	4	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations ...	2	4	—	—	—	—	2	4
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	4	1	2	2	8	15	14	18
33. Motor vehicle accidents ...	—	—	2	—	1	—	3	—
34. All other accidents ...	—	2	7	1	3	6	10	9
35. Suicide ...	—	—	1	1	1	—	2	1
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
All causes ...	6	8	54	26	135	124	195	158

CAUSES OF DEATH IN INFANCY

Congenital Malformations	...	six
Prematurity	... ..	three
Suffocation	... ..	two
Gastro enteritis	... ..	one
Haemolytic disease	... ..	one
Accident of birth	... ..	one



## 5. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES IN THE AREA

### PROVIDED BY THE NORTH WEST METROPOLITAN REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD

#### GENERAL HOSPITALS

Bedford General Hospital, South Wing, Kempston Road, Bedford.  
Bedford General Hospital, North Wing, Kimbolton Road, Bedford.

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASE HOSPITALS

Spittlesea Isolation Hospital, Spittlesea, Nr. Luton, Beds.

#### CHEST CLINICS (FOR PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS)

Bedford General Hospital, North Wing, Kimbolton Road, Bedford.

#### VENEREAL DISEASE CLINIC

Bedford General Hospital (South Wing).

Males and Females: Wednesday 5 p.m.—7 p.m.                      Friday 3 p.m.—5 p.m.

Luton and Dunstable Hospital

Males and Females: Monday—Friday 8.30 a.m.—8.30 p.m.

Saturday 8.30 a.m.—12 noon.

### PROVIDED BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE

#### BACTERIOLOGICAL LABORATORY

North Wing, Kimbolton Road.

### PROVIDED BY THE BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

#### AMBULANCE SERVICE

The service provided by the Bedfordshire County Council has satisfactorily met the needs of the area. It covers the full twenty-four hours, and is free of charge.

In addition to moving emergency cases, ambulance or sitting-case car transport is available for carrying patients unable to travel by other means to and from Hospitals and Clinics, when attendance is necessary for the purpose of receiving medical treatment.

Except in the case of an emergency, the request for an ambulance must be made by a Medical Practitioner or other authorised person. This should be to the nearest depot.

The service also covers the removal to isolation hospitals of patients suffering from infectious disease.

Depots are situated as follows:—

**BEDFORD**

Bedford Road, Kempston

**AMPTHILL**

14 Dunstable Street

**BIGGLESWADE**

Crab Lane

**DUNSTABLE**

High Street North

**LUTON**

42 Church Street

**LINSLADE**

Bucks. County Council,  
10 New Road,  
Linslade.

**RUSHDEN**

Rushden and District Motor Ambulance  
Association,  
Mr. C. C. Woods,  
3, Purvis Road.

*Telephone*

Bedford 5335

Ampthill 3333

Biggleswade 2295

Dunstable 761

Luton 4600

Leighton Buzzard 3332

Rushden 403

**DOMICILIARY NURSING AND MIDWIFERY SERVICE**

Administered by the Northern Divisional Health Committee.

The following is a list of nurses and their districts:—

Carlton and Chellington, Harrold, Odell, Podington  
and Wymington

Nurse L. Draper\*†  
Phone Harrold 265

Bletsoe, Felmersham, Knotting and Souldrop,  
Sharnbrook

Nurse E. A. Wallace\*†  
Phone Sharnbrook 380

Clapham ... ..

Nurse M. E. Inskip\*†  
Phone Bedford 3810

Biddenham, Bromham, Stagsden, Kempston Rural  
(part), Wootton

Nurse P. R. E. Jones\*†  
Phone Oakley 212

Milton Ernest, Oakley, Pavenham, Turvey and  
Stevington

Nurse E. Henshall††  
Phone Oakley 535

Dean and Shelton, Melchbourne and Yelden, Pertenhall,  
Riseley and Swineshead ... ..

Nurse M. I. Baines††  
Phone Riseley 367

Bolnhurst, Colmworth, Keysoe, Little Staughton,  
Thurleigh ... ..

Nurse E. D. Lord\*†  
Phone Ravensden 375  
Nurse M. Clark††

Kempston Rural (part) Elstow, Eastcotts, Stewartby,  
Wilstead (midwifery)

{ Phone Kempston 2172  
Nurse F. K. Patton\*†  
Phone Lower Shelton 268  
Nurse C. B. Macdonald\*



Kempston Rural (part) (general nursing)	...	...	{ Phone Kempston 2293 Nurse T. Eccles* (male) Phone Bedford 2030
Cardington, Cople, Stewartby, Wilstead, Eastcotts, Elstow (general nursing)			Nurse E. R. Miller†† Phone Cardington 205
Cardington, Cople (midwifery)	...	...	Nurse D. E. Hellett*† Phone Bedford 66155
Eaton Socon, Little Barford	...	...	Nurse A. Moore*† Phone Eaton Socon 267
Great Barford, Ravensden, Renhold, Roxton, Wilden, Willington	...	...	Nurse D. E. Hellett*† Phone Bedford 66155
* S.R.N. (State Registered Nurse)      † S.C.M. (State Certified Midwife) † S.E.A.N. (State Enrolled Assistant Nurse)			

### HEALTH VISITING SERVICE

Miss M. Cockshoot, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V., 110, High Street, Riseley.	
Miss E. Strong	„ „ „ Flat B, 14, Rothsay Gardens, Bedford.
Miss D. Hellett	„ „ „ 29, St. Andrew's Road, Bedford.
Miss R. A. Potter	„ „ „ c/o "Hiltdown", Biddenham.
Mrs. B. K. Groom	„ „ „ "Eastmoor", Maulden Road, Flitwick.

### HOME HELP SERVICE

Organiser: Mrs. V. M. Pedley, 3, St. Peter's Street, Bedford. Phone Bedford 2207.

### INFANT WELFARE CENTRES

Kempston Methodist Schoolroom (Foster Road)	Friday, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.
Estate Office, Highbury Grove, Clapham	... Monday, 2 p.m.
Eaton Socon Methodist Schoolroom	... Alternate Tuesdays, 2 p.m.
Harrold, The Chapel	... 4 Weekly, Thursdays, 2 p.m.
Sharnbrook Church Hall	... Alternate Thursdays, 2 p.m.
Stewartby United Church's Schoolroom	... Alternate Mondays, 2 p.m.
Bromham, Village Hall	... Alternate Mondays, 2 p.m.
Turvey, The Old Schoolroom	... 4 Weekly, Wednesdays, 2 p.m.
Wootton Methodist Schoolroom	... Alternate Thursdays, 2 p.m.
Riseley Village Hall	... 4 Weekly, Wednesdays, 2 p.m.
Elstow Parish Hall	... Wednesdays, 2 p.m.
Great Barford Village Hall	... 4 Weekly, Tuesdays, 2 p.m.
Wyboston Village Hall	... 4 Weekly, Wednesdays, 2 p.m.
Wymington, Wesleyan Chapel	... 4 Weekly, Wednesdays, 2 p.m.
Wilstead, Village Hall	... 4 Weekly, Mondays, 2 p.m.

## ANTE-NATAL CLINICS

Biggleswade, The Lawns	...	...	...	...	Tuesdays, a.m. fortnightly
Amphill, 1, Dunstable Street	...	...	...	...	Fridays, a.m. fortnightly

## SCHOOL CLINICS

St. Peter's Clinic, 3, St. Peter's Street, Bedford.	Child Guidance Dental (2 surgeries) Orthoptic Speech therapy Sunlight	2 Sessions weekly Sessions as required 6 Sessions weekly 3 Sessions weekly When specially arranged
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# 6. LEGISLATION IN FORCE

## ADOPTIVE ACTS

Slaughter of Animals, 1933, Section I.

## BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS

New Streets and Buildings.  
Dairies, Cowsheds, Milkshops, etc.  
Slaughter Houses.  
Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food.

# 7. SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

## (a) WATER SUPPLY

Water for the District is obtained in bulk from neighbouring Authorities, the main suppliers being the Bedford Corporation. Other supplies are obtained from the Biggleswade Water Board, Amphill Rural District Council, St. Neots Urban District Council, Higham Ferrers and Rushden Water Board, and Kempston Urban District Council.

The Council's scheme of distribution is comprehensive, and consists of 247 miles of water main, water towers at Milton Ernest, Turvey, Ravensden and Eaton Socon, elevated tanks at Podington and Renhold, two pumping stations at Clapham, and booster stations at Sharnbrook and Riseley.

Reports on Chemical Analyses and Bacteriological Examinations made during the year have been submitted by each of the Water Undertakings concerned.

In each case the results revealed a water supply which was pure, wholesome and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes. The Analysts' reports do suggest that in the case of the supplies from the Rushden and Higham Ferrers Water Board and St. Neots U.D.C. they could be improved by softening.

As a routine, samples of main water have been taken regularly throughout the year for bacteriological examination. Altogether 43 samples were taken and, of these, 5 were



slightly below the perfect standard which is desirable in public supplies. In each case, flushing out of the mains succeeded in removing any sub-standard water from the distribution system.

Private supplies were also sampled and of the 17 samples taken, 12 were found to be unsatisfactory. All but 3 of the private sources had main water available as an alternative, and steps have been taken to secure their connection to the Council's mains. The consumers of the 3 unsatisfactory supplies for which no alternative was available, were warned to take precautionary measures.

TYPICAL RESULTS OF CHEMICAL ANALYSES OF WATER SUPPLIES  
(in parts per million)

	Bedford Borough	Ampthill R.D.C.	Biggles- wade W.B. (Dunton)	Rushden & Higham Ferrers W.B.	St. Neots U.D.
Reaction (pH) ... ..	7.4	6.2	7.2	7.3	7.1
Turbidity (Silica scale) ... ..	—	Less than 3	Nil	Nil	—
Colour (Hazen Units) ... ..	—	Nil	Nil	Nil	—
Carbonate Hardness (CaCO <sub>3</sub> ) ... ..	231	15	195	133	—
Non-carbonate Hardness (CaCO <sub>3</sub> ) ... ..	141	35	10	125	—
Total hardness ... ..	372	50	205	258	410
Free carbon dioxide ... ..	18.6	18	15	—	—
Chlorine (as chlorides) ... ..	35	23	13	28.5	56.5
Nitrate nitrogen (N) ... ..	3.5	4.2	3.0	1.0	6.5
Nitrite nitrogen (N) ... ..	Nil	0.01	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ammoniacal nitrogen ... ..	0.02	Nil	0.071	0.02	Nil
Albuminoid nitrogen ... ..	0.16	Nil	0.010	0.104	0.052
O <sub>2</sub> from K <sub>2</sub> Mn <sub>2</sub> O <sub>8</sub> in 3 hours at 37°C. ... ..	0.13	0.15	Nil	1.217	0.985
Total solids at 180°C. ... ..	541	105	275	—	—
Electric conductivity (megohms per c.c. at 20°C.) ... ..	695	155	410	—	—
Iron ... ..	—	—	0.06	—	—
Copper ... ..	—	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Lead ... ..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Zinc ... ..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Calcium ... ..	135	—	—	97.5	—
Magnesium ... ..	14	—	—	9.6	—
Fluorine ... ..	0.27	—	—	—	—
Sulphates ... ..	118	—	—	—	—
Silica (SiO <sub>2</sub> ) ... ..	5.0	—	—	—	—
Phosphates ... ..	0.2	—	—	—	—
Detergent estimate ... ..	0.17	—	—	—	—

Details of the main water supplies are as follows:—

PARISH	Population estimated for	Length of Mains		Premises supplied	No. of Services	No. of Stand- posts	Population Supplied
		Miles	Yards				
Great Barford ... ..	822	2	939	132	123	20	701
Little Barford ... ..	97	1	549	7	10	2	58
Biddenham ... ..	582	1	1,634	190	187	—	580
Bletsoe ... ..	291	8	74	42	44	7	237
Bolnhurst and Keysoe ...	683	15	386	147	156	38	631
Bromham ... ..	1,470	6	381	329	281	—	1,466
Cardington ... ..	483	1	1,040	111	73	—	461
Carlton and Chellington	597	6	791	80	81	12	408
Clapham ... ..	1,751	5	813	551	310	14	1,748
Colmworth ... ..	584	4	380	79	79	10	525
Cople ... ..	614	2	373	168	149	9	475
Dean and Shelton ...	361	3	1,432	91	96	16	332
Eastcotts ... ..	1,148	3	399	168	119	11	1,100
Eaton Socon ... ..	3,143	16	1,334	721	590	48	2,785
Elstow ... ..	470	3	466	155	105	—	482
Felmersham ... ..	381	5	605	72	73	14	379
Harrold ... ..	1,061	1	1,337	149	138	21	747
Kempston Rural ...	1,081	11	682	301	259	21	1,079
Knotting and Souldrop	289	5	700	70	61	9	289
Melchbourne and Yelden	317	5	676	64	59	12	297
Milton Ernest ... ..	438	7	52	80	85	8	400
Oakley ... ..	559	4	1,726	165	159	19	559
Odell ... ..	235	3	425	58	54	9	233
Pavenham ... ..	391	2	1,510	81	83	11	388
Pertenhall ... ..	221	2	295	51	56	4	201
Podington ... ..	698	5	1,389	88	85	7	603
Ravensden ... ..	509	8	199	102	108	14	488
Renhold ... ..	617	12	600	289	272	1	614
Riseley ... ..	573	4	803	119	105	17	559
Roxton ... ..	743	5	1,067	109	90	18	640
Sharnbrook ... ..	1,064	9	1,464	218	208	21	832
Stagsden ... ..	438	3	959	112	108	14	430
Staughton, Little ...	238	5	61	50	53	12	236
Stevington ... ..	468	4	1,108	92	100	12	468
Stewartby ... ..	1,827	6	1,739	267	229	—	1,804
Swineshead ... ..	110	1	728	39	33	5	108
Thurleigh ... ..	507	10	548	101	99	22	500
Turvey ... ..	750	5	1,325	92	85	18	745
Wilden ... ..	397	9	29	85	85	15	386
Willington ... ..	523	3	732	91	95	13	463
Wilshamstead ... ..	971	7	959	202	192	19	969
Wootton ... ..	1,460	7	419	287	284	39	1,458
Wymington ... ..	726	1	1,213	240	155	2	720
Sandy and Tempsford (Biggleswade R.D.C.)	—	3	876	—	—	—	—
Trunk Main ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	30,688	247	1,782	6,645	5,816	564	28,284

RAINFALL

Rainfall in Borough of Bedford.

Altitude:—114·0 feet (Newlyn)

Diameter of gauge, 8 in. Height of gauge above ground, 1 ft (approx.)

Latitude:—52° 8' 48" N. Longitude:—0° 27' 56" W.



1955 Month	Total ins.	Greatest Rainfall in 24 hours		No. of days with .01" or more	No. of days with .04" or more	
		Inches	Date			
			9 a.m.			9 a.m.
January ... ..	1.49	.36	16th	17th	12	6
February ... ..	1.03	.23	4th	5th	16	9
March ... ..	1.33	.38	26th	27th	10	7
April ... ..	0.46	.18	7th	8th	9	4
May ... ..	3.70	.81	17th	18th	18	11
June ... ..	1.82	.39	11th	12th	10	7
July ... ..	0.53	.43	14th	15th	2	2
August ... ..	0.63	.28	13th	14th	7	4
September ... ..	1.55	.44	13th	14th	8	6
October ... ..	1.55	.40	19th	20th	12	9
November ... ..	1.03	.25	9th	10th	13	6
December ... ..	1.92	.38	24th	25th	19	15
	17.04				136	86

## (b) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Clapham, Stewartby, Stevington, Shortstown and parts of Eaton Socon are served by reasonably satisfactory sewerage systems although at Wymington and Eaton Socon the sewage disposal works cannot be considered suitable by modern standards.

Conditions prevailing in the unsewered areas of the District remained substantially unchanged, difficulties being experienced with the numerous cesspools, septic tanks, and pail closets. Prospects for the future are somewhat less difficult by reason of the progress made in the Council's Sewerage Contract No. 1 for the parishes of Harrold, Carlton and Chellington, Odell, Sharnbrook, Felmersham, Pavenham and Riseley, and by the letting of Contract No. 2 for the parishes of Bromham, Biddenham, and parts of Wootton and Kempston Rural.

The major schemes of sewerage now being undertaken represent very considerable capital works, but it is clear that even when these schemes are in commission, the demand and necessity for further works of a similar nature will continue for a very long time, during which the Council will need to continue, and possibly augment, the organisation for emptying cesspools as a free service once per year and the emptying of closet pails in seven parishes. The latter service is difficult to maintain by reason of the obnoxious nature of this employment.

Polluted ditches continue to be a problem, and a total of 5,147 yards were treated as open sewers and cleansed by the Council during the year.

## THE SANITATION OF COUNTY SCHOOLS

It will be noted from the following table that seven schools have had modern water carriage sanitation installed since 1950, making a total of nineteen schools with modern sanitation, although some of these are not in all respects ideal.

It can be expected that the schools at Bromham, Carlton, Eaton Socon, Pavenham, Riseley and Wootton will have modern sanitation systems installed as the main drainage becomes available in these villages. The rest of the schools, thirteen in all, remain on the dry conservancy system and there is no early prospect of modernization, particularly in view of the present shortage of capital available to the Education Authority. It must not be assumed, however, that they are in all cases unhealthy if well managed and maintained. In some there are difficulties in disposal of bucket contents and it is to be hoped that these will receive priority consideration by the Education Authority.

School	Type	Number of Pupils	Closets			Sewage Disposal	Observations	
			Type	Number B. G. I.				
Biddenham	V.P.	23	W.C.	1	2	1	Sewer	
Bletsoe ...	Con. P.	9	Pail	1	1	2	Daily burial	Very poor building. Should be closed as soon as possible
Bromham	V.P.	74	Pail	2	2	0	Weekly burial	Should be converted to W.C. when sewer available
Cardington	C.P.	136	W.C.	2	5	1	Small disposal plant	Converted to W.C. with disposal plant during 1953
Carlton ...	V.P.	31	Pail	2	2	0	Weekly collection by R.D.C.	Should be converted to W.C. when sewer available
Clapham	V.C.P.	275	W.C.	10	4	12	Sewer ...	Sanitary accommodation needs replanning
Colmworth	V.P.	27	Pail	2	2	1	Buried twice weekly	
Cople ...	C.P.	66	W.C.	2	1	1	Cesspool	
Dean & Shelton	C.P.	36	W.C.	2	1	1	Small disposal plant	Lavatory basin needs connecting to drain
Eastcotts	C.P.	138	W.C.	3	4	1	Small disposal plant	Converted to W.C., 1952
Eaton Socon	C.P.	425	Pail	2	5	4	Twice weekly collection by R.D.C.	Sanitary accommodation insufficient. Conversion to W.C. urgently needed



The Sanitation of County Schools—*continued*

School	Type	Number of Pupils	Closets			Sewage Disposal	Observations	
			Type	Number B. G. I.				
Elstow ...	C.P.	367	W.C.	3	7	2	Sewer ...	Sanitary accommoda- tion insufficient
Felmersham	C.P.	23	W.C.	1	3	—	Disposal plant	Converted to W.C. during the year
Gt. Barford	C.P.	85	Pail	2	3	1	Drying Shed in use	Insufficient sanitary accommodation. Small disposal plant needed
Harrold	C.S.M.	163	W.C.	4	8	—	Disposal plant	
Harrold	C.P.	107	W.C.	3	3	2	Disposal plant	
Kempston (Rural)	C.P.	80	W.C.	2	4	1	Disposal plant	Converted to W.C. in 1953
Keysoe ...	C.P.	126	W.C.	2	3	2	Disposal plant	
Little Staughton	C.P.	22	W.C.	1	2	1	Disposal plant	Converted to W.C. in 1954
Milton Ernest	V.P.	51	Pail	2	3	—	Buried three times a week	
Oakley	C.P.	43	W.C.	1	1	1	Cesspool ...	Sanitary accommoda- tion insufficient. Needs small disposal plant— to serve canteen also
Odell ...	V.P.	32	Pail	2	1	1	Removed weekly by R.D.C.	
Pavenham	C.P.	27	Pail	1	1	1	Removed weekly by R.D.C.	
Podington	V.P.	40	Pail	2	2	1	Buried twice weekly	Difficulties in disposal. Could be connected to main sewer
Ravensden	V.P.	33	Pail	2	2	1	Buried twice weekly	

The Sanitation of County Schools—*continued*

School	Type	Number of Pupils	Closets			Sewage Disposal	Observations	
			Type	Number B. G. I.				
Renhold ...	V.C.P.	33	Pail	2	2	0	Buried twice weekly	Public sewer shortly available
Riseley ...	V.P.	170	Pail	2	2	0	Buried twice weekly	
Roxton ...	V.P.	69	Pail	1	1	1	Buried twice weekly	
Sharnbrook	C.P.	126	W.C.	2	2	1	Disposal Plant	Could be drained to disposal works at proposed housing estate
Souldrop	C.P.	15	Pail	2	2	0	Drying shed in use	
Stagsden ...	V.P.	20	Pail	4	4	0	Buried twice weekly	
Stevington	C.P.	24	W.C.	2	3	0	Cesspool	Could be connected to disposal plant on Council housing site
Stewartby	C.S.M.	357	W.C.	13	10	0	Main Sewer	
Stewartby	C.P.	133	W.C.	3	6	2	Main Sewer	
Thurleigh	C.P.	53	W.C.	3	3	0	Disposal plant	Conversion completed during 1954
Turvey ...	C.P.	37	Pail	2	4	4	Buried weekly	
Wilden ...	V.P.	21	Pail	1	1	2	Removed thrice weekly	By contractor
Willington	C.P.	34	W.C.	2	3	2	Cesspool	
Wilstead	C.J.	35	Pail	2	3	0	Buried twice weekly	
Wilstead	C.I.	22	Pail	0	0	3	Buried weekly	Small disposal plant would serve both schools
Wootton	C.P.	113	Pail	2	5	6	Drying shed in use	
Wymington	V.P.	80	W.C.	2	3	0	Main sewer	



## SCHOOL CLOSURES

No schools were closed for health reasons during the year.

## RIVERS AND STREAMS

Extensive pollutions continue to occur both in major water courses such as the River Ouse and small ditches scattered throughout the developed parts of the area. The schemes of sewerage now under construction will, to a great extent, alleviate the nuisances arising from these conditions.

## CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Water closets are increasing in number due to the extensive new building being undertaken in the District and the modernisation, with or without the aid of grants, of older properties, the owners and occupiers of which no longer consider a bucket as a satisfactory sanitary convenience. There will, however, continue to be a very large number of pail closets for many years to come, and the disposal of their contents will continue as a burden on the Council and the individual householder.

## (c) PUBLIC CLEANSING

The Council operates a scheme of refuse collection by direct labour, collecting refuse once a week in 6 parishes, and fortnightly in all other parishes.

## (d) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following list gives the statistics relative to the sanitary inspection of the area

### INSPECTIONS

Number of inspections made during the year	...	...	...	...	...	5,761
Premises inspected under the Public Health and Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	2,886
Houses inspected under the Public Health and Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	2,589
Houses inspected and recorded	...	...	...	...	...	2,085
Houses not reasonably fit under Public Health and Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	1,022
Houses totally unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	19
Cases of infectious disease notified and investigated	...	...	...	...	...	10
Rooms disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	1
Schools disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	—
Insect infestation of houses	...	...	...	...	...	5
Rooms disinfested	...	...	...	...	...	5
Rats and Mice infestation of premises	...	...	...	...	...	231
Premises disinfested	...	...	...	...	...	231
Inspections of dairies	...	...	...	...	...	5
Inspections of bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	17
Inspections of slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	35
Inspections of shops and offices	...	...	...	...	...	—
Camping Sites	...	...	...	...	...	41
Inspections in connection with the Comprehensive Scheme of Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	781

## REPORT OF NUISANCES

Defective and/or blocked drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
Inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	61
Defective and/or blocked sewers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Defective sinks and wastes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
Inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
Dangerous buildings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Overflowing and leaking cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,818
Defective and insanitary closet accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	219
Inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	220
Filthy, verminous and insanitary premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Lack of, or defective, refuse accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
Inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
Offensive accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Insanitary ditches	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
Inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	72
Defective water services	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	288
Inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	302
Houses needing redecoration	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Dairy nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Bakehouse nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Slaughterhouse nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35

## REPORT OF DEFECTS FOUND

Defective Walls	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Defective Roofs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	146
Defective Chimneys	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	88
Defective Eaves Gutters	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Defective Rainwater Pipes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Defective Rainwater Butts and/or Tanks	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Defective Solid Floors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Defective Wooden Floors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Defective Wall Plaster	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Defective Ceiling Plaster	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	69
Defective Windows	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	135



Insufficient Lighting and Ventilation to Rooms	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Insufficient Height to Rooms	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Defective Doors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	163
Defective Cooking Grates	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	115
Defective other Grates	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	155
Defective Food Stores	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Dwellings with no Food Stores	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Defective Staircases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Defective Handrails	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Staircases with no Handrails	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Defective Coppers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	66
Dwellings with no Washing Accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Defective Sinks	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
Defective Draining Boards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Defective Mantelpieces	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Defective Hot Water Systems	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	89
Defective Paintwork and Decorations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Houses affected by dampness	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Defective or no paving to Yards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Defective paths and Gates	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
Defective Outbuildings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Defective Earth and Chemical Closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
Defective Water Closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	156
Defective Drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Premises without Drainage Facilities	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Defective Sink Buckets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Defective Dustbins	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
Defective Fences	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Defective Water Services	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	288
Defective Gas or Electric Fittings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	241

#### SUMMARY OF MATTERS DEALT WITH

							<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Defects or Nuisances Found</i>
Houses, Inspection of, Public Health and Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,589	1,022
Public Health Act Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,187	357
Factories, etc	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	—
Slaughterhouses and Retail Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	35	—
Inspections in connection with Water Scheme	...	...	...	...	...	...	781	140
Number of Notices served—Preliminary	...	...	...	...	...	...	65	
“ “ “ “ Statutory	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Proceedings taken	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	

## DISINFECTION

Where it is necessary, in cases of notifiable infectious disease, the rooms occupied by the patient are sealed off and disinfected with a dilute spray of formalin or by formaldehyde gas. Three rooms were so treated in 1954. An inspection of the house and sanitary arrangements is made in each case, and where necessary, informal notices are served requiring any defects found to be remedied.

### (e) PETROL AND CARBIDE LICENCES

Number of licences to store petrol and carbide granted during the year ... 134

### (f) SHOPS AND OFFICES

During the year 15 inspections were made under the Shops Act, 1934, and in every case the provisions of the Act were complied with. With regard to Circular 1,600 dealing with offices, no action has been found to be necessary.

### (g) CAMPING SITES

(a) Number of sites used for camping purposes	...	...	...	—
(b) Number of sites licensed by Local Authority	...	...	...	—
(c) Estimated maximum number of campers resident during the summer season	...	...	...	—

### (h) MOVABLE DWELLINGS

(a) Number of Licences issued during the year to use sites	...	...	6
(b) Number of Licences issued during the year to erect or station movable dwellings	...	...	6

### (i) SMOKE ABATEMENT

No action was found necessary during the year.

### (j) SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

- (a) There are no public baths in the area.
- (b) In Stewartby there is a privately owned swimming bath.

The River Ouse runs through the district and bathing takes place along the banks in many Parishes.



(k) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

Number of Council Houses infested	...	...	...	...	...	1
Number of other houses infested	...	...	...	...	...	1
Number of houses disinfested	...	...	...	...	...	1

Methods employed:—

- (a) Skirting, picture rails, etc., loosened and sprayed with Zaldecide. Rooms sealed and fumigated with Thermatox Fumigators. The above operations are repeated after several days.
- (b) Careful inspection of belongings of prospective tenants is made prior to occupation of new house.
- (c) Disinfestation carried out by Local Authority free.
- (d) Visits are made to ensure that the premises are being kept in a clean condition.

(1) RATS AND MICE—PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The Council employ one rodent operative who is responsible for the survey of the area and for treatment of domestic and business premises in which rats and mice are found. The treatment of domestic premises is carried out as a free service.

Although the Council is the only Authority for the administration and enforcement of the Act, specific duties are placed upon the County Agricultural Executive Committee in respect of treatment of agricultural lands and premises. When areas are being surveyed and treated there is close co-operation between the Agricultural Committee's staff and the Council's operative and, where necessary disinfestation is undertaken simultaneously by the two organisations. This arrangement has worked satisfactorily and has resulted in a marked reduction of the rat population in some areas.

Regular treatment is applied to the Council's refuse tips, where the degree of infestation appears to be considerably reduced. Test baiting of sewers is undertaken as a routine measure once each year and treatment carried out if found necessary.

The following table gives details of the work undertaken by the end of the year:—

Number of Properties Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	2,430
Number of Inspections Made	...	...	...	...	...	3,532
Refuse Tip Visits and Treatments	...	...	...	...	...	147
Sewers Prebaited and/or Treated	...	...	...	...	...	—
Dwelling Houses Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	1,724
Dwelling Houses Treated	...	...	...	...	...	224
Business Premises Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	90
Business Premises Treated	...	...	...	...	...	7
Agricultural Premises Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	332
Infestations Referred to Agricultural Committee	...	...	...	...	...	20

# 8. HOUSING

Number of Applications approved during the year	...	...	...	...	748
Number of Dwellings	...	...	...	...	315
„ „ Conversions to Dwellings	...	...	...	...	14
„ „ Estate Development Lay-outs	...	...	...	...	18
„ „ Additions and Alterations	...	...	...	...	61
„ „ Garages	...	...	...	...	151
„ „ Drainage Schemes	...	...	...	...	88
„ „ Farm Buildings	...	...	...	...	53
„ „ Factory and Workshop Buildings	...	...	...	...	10
„ „ Stores and Sheds	...	...	...	...	10
„ „ Offices	...	...	...	...	4
„ „ Shops	...	...	...	...	9
„ „ Miscellaneous Plans	...	...	...	...	15
Number of Houses erected by Private Enterprise during the year	...	...	...	...	748
„ „ Conversions and Adaptations completed by Private Enterprise during the year	...	...	...	...	—
„ „ Conversions and Adaptations completed by Local Authority during the year	...	...	...	...	—
„ „ Houses erected by Local Authority during the year	...	...	...	...	63
„ „ Inspections in connection with foundations	...	...	...	...	339
„ „ Inspections in connection with D.P.Cs.	...	...	...	...	181
„ „ Intermediate Inspections	...	...	...	...	1,627
„ „ Inspections of drains and testing	...	...	...	...	359
„ „ Inspections under T. and C. Planning Act 1947	...	...	...	...	663
„ „ Inspections under Building Byelaws	...	...	...	...	1,562
„ „ Final Inspections	...	...	...	...	241
„ „ Samples taken	...	...	...	...	—

Under the various Housing Acts, 1,148 Houses have been erected by this Council and the late Eaton Socon Rural District Council.

## HOUSING CONDITIONS

The condition of the older dwellings continues to present a problem. The programme for the clearance of individual unfit houses has been placed on record, and during the year some properties have been demolished, closed, or condemned. With the demand for housing accommodation as large as ever, prospects for the future are not particularly encouraging, and they make it difficult to justify the removal of substandard dwellings, even though they are far below modern standards and cannot be made fit at a reasonable expense.

The general conditions are alleviated to a degree by increased building of small privately owned houses and the improvement of sounder older properties by grants under the Housing Act, 1949, and the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954. The procedure and practice for improvement grants is becoming more widely known to the population of the area, and during the year has been encouraged by substantial grants authorised by the Council



INSPECTIONS OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR

(1) (a) Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	2,085
(b) Number of inspections for the purpose ... ..	4,595
(2) Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	19
(3) Number of Dwelling Houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	1,125

REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF  
FORMAL NOTICES

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... ..	2,221
---	-------

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	—
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice:—	
(a) By Owners ... ..	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... ..	—
B. Proceedings Under Public Health Acts ... ..	1
C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	5
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	4
D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 ... ..	—

OVERCROWDING

Owing to the acute housing shortage, temporary overcrowding exists in some houses.

HOUSING ACT, 1949 AND HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954.

Improvement Grants:—	
Applications Approved ... ..	40
Number of Houses Concerned ... ..	57
Applications Refused ... ..	2
Applications Withdrawn ... ..	5
Improvements Completed ... ..	28
New Units of Accommodation Provided ... ..	—

## 9. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### (a) MILK SUPPLY

On the 1st October, 1949, the provisions of the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944, came into operation by which control of milk production passed from the Local Authority to the Ministry of Agriculture, the Council retaining the responsibility for the registration of dairymen and the enforcement of hygienic conditions in retail dairies.

Number of Dairies Registered	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Number of Dairymen Registered	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
Number of Dealer's Licences—Sterilised	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Number of Inspections Made	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Defects found requiring Official Action	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Number of Samples of Milk taken	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Number of Samples found Unsatisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

### SECTION 20

In four instances during the year, milk was found to contain tubercle bacilli and in each case arrangements were made to have all milk from that source pasteurised until the infected cow was removed from the herd.

### (b) MEAT INSPECTION

Number of Slaughterhouses licensed:—	...	...	...	...	...	7
Number of Knackers Yards licensed	...	...	...	...	...	1

Five of the slaughterhouses have been in use during the year. One slaughterhouse, which is operated in connection with a wholesale meat business, has been in continuous daily use. Two slaughterhouses have been used regularly for the occupiers' own requirements, and two others were used for occasional or emergency slaughter.

Extensive structural alterations have been carried out at the main slaughterhouse, which have resulted in an improvement in the handling and storage of meat there.

The Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) (No. 2) Regulations 1954, have given statutory effect to certain recommendations of the Report of the Committee of Inquiry into the Slaughter of Horses. Structural alterations have been made at the Knackers Yard where horses are slaughtered, to comply with these Regulations.

An additional Sanitary Inspector was appointed in February to undertake the specialist duties of meat inspection. A comprehensive inspection has been made of all the meat killed at the slaughterhouses in use even though this work has involved a considerable amount of work outside normal working hours.

During the period, nearly 7 tons of meat and offal were rejected as unfit for human consumption. The rejected meat and offal have all been disposed of to one or other of three sources where effective treatment is carried out. One of these sources is located within the District. This place has been completely re-equipped during the year for dealing with considerable quantities of unfit meat and offal. A system is now in use in the area where whereby inedible meat and offal are collected at frequent intervals from butchers shops and slaughterhouses in washed and sterilised bins with fitted lids.



The table below gives an analysis of the meat inspected during the year.

Number of Animals Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,649
Number of Inspections Made	...	...	...	...	...	...	266
Total weight of Meat and Offal rejected	...	...	...	...	...	...	15,374 lbs.

#### CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number inspected ... ..	478	122	222	1,666	3,161	Nil
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	2	7	4	12	8	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	86	47	3	42	167	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	18·4	44·26	3·15	3·24	5·54	—
<i>Tuberculosis only:</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	1	3	—	—	1	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	17	15	—	—	45	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	3·7	14·7	—	—	1·1	—
<i>Cysticercosis:</i>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	2	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration ... ..	4	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and total condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

#### (c) OTHER FOOD

Number of Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Want of Limewashing	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Number of Inspections of Shops and other Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15

The following foodstuffs have been condemned as unfit for human consumption:—

26 lbs. Lard	72 Tins Meat
76 lbs Fish	1 Tin Beans
22 Tins Fruit	1 „ Cream
2 „ Fish	1 „ Soup
2 „ Vegetables	

(d) ICE CREAM

There are 44 retailers in the District, and of these all but 1 sell prepacked Ice Cream supplied to them by reputable manufacturers. 8 samples of ice cream were taken during the year. All the samples were satisfactory except one, but a further sample of this ice cream from the same consignment proved satisfactory.

(e) CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS

All catering establishments in the area comply with the requirements of Section 13 of the Foods and Drugs Act and have a satisfactory standard of hygiene.

10. FACTORIES

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

PART I OF THE ACT

(a) INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors):—

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ... ..	1	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ... ..	83	1	1	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	5	—	—	—
Totals ... ..	89	1	1	—



(b) CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more “cases”)

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—					
(a) Insufficient ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ... ..	1	1	—	—	—
Totals ...	1	1	—	—	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT

(c) OUTWORK

(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel— Making, etc. ...	8	—	—	—	—	—

# 11. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disease	Notifications by Age Groups										Removed to hospital
	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	over 15	Total		
Measles ... ..	8	28	40	45	56	203	15	9	404	2	
Whooping Cough ...	2	1	3	3	—	9	—	1	19	2	
Scarlet Fever ... ..	—	1	—	—	3	3	1	3	11	—	
Pneumonia ... ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	17	18	—	
Meningococcal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	
Food Poisoning ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	
Dysentery ... ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	4	2	7	1	
Infective Hepatitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	
Poliomyelitis ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	2	
Erysipelas ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	7	—	

## PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The incidence of measles was high during the year, which was to be expected after last year’s very low figure. This district seems to experience an epidemic every three years.

The figure for whooping cough was low and it is to be hoped that now immunisation against this disease has commenced on a wide scale, within a few years this disease will cease to be a problem.

The incidence of other infectious diseases was low and call for no comment.



NOTIFICATIONS BY PARISHES

Parish	Measles	W. Cough	Sc. Fever	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Dysentery	Infective Hepatitis	Poliomyelitis	Puerperal Pyrexia	Meningococcal Meningitis	Food Poisoning
Biddenham ...	14	3	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bletsoe ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bolnhurst and Keysoe	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bromham ...	39	—	5	2	2	—	6	—	—	—	—	—
Cardington ...	12	—	—	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carlton and Chellington	9	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Clapham ...	72	3	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cople ...	10	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Colmworth ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dean and Shelton ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Eaton Socon ...	11	8	2	4	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Elstow ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Eastcotts ...	28	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Felmersham ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Great Barford ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Harrold ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Honeydon ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kempston Rural ...	9	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Knotting ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Little Barford ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Little Staughton ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Melchbourne and Yelden	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Milton Ernest ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Oakley ...	5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Odell ...	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pavenham ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Pertenhall ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Podington ...	65	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Ravensden ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Renhold ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Riseley ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Roxton ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sharnbrook ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stagsden ...	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stevington ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stewartby ...	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Swineshead ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thurleigh ...	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Turvey ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wilden ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Willington ...	5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wootton ...	22	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Wymington ...	61	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Wilstead ...	3	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wyboston ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	404	19	11	18	7	3	7	1	2	1	1	1

TUBERCULOSIS IN AGE GROUPS

Age				New Cases				Deaths			
				Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5	...	...	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-15	...	...	...	2	—	2+1*	1	—	—	—	—
15-35	...	...	...	4+1*	5	2	1	—	—	—	—
35-65	...	...	...	6	1	2	2	—	—	1	—
Over 65	...	...	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total				12+1*	8	6+1*	4	—	—	1	—

\* Transferred from other Districts.

NUMBER ON REGISTER AT END OF YEAR

					Males	Females
Pulmonary	...	...	...	...	89	60
Non-Pulmonary	...	...	...	...	20	21



TUBERCULOSIS IN PARISHES

Parish						New Cases			
						Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
						M.	F.	M.	F.
Bolnhurst and Keysoe	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Bromham	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	2	—
Carlton and Chellington	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Clapham	...	...	...	...	...	1*	—	1	—
Colmworth	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Cople	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	—	—
Dean and Shelton	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	1	1
Eastcotts	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1*	—
Elstow	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Eaton Socon	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	—	1
Felmersham	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	1
Great Barford	...	...	...	...	...	3	—	—	—
Harrold	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	—	—
Kempston Rural	...	...	...	...	...	4	—	1	—
Knotting and Souldrop	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Little Staughton	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Milton Ernest	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Odell	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	—	—
Podington	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Ravensden	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Riseley	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Roxton	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Sharnbrook	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	—	—
Stagsden	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	—	—
Stewartby	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	—	—
Thurleigh	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Turvey	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Wilden	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Wilstead	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	1
Willington	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Wootton	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Wyboston	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	—	—
Wymington	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Total						12+1*	8	6+1*	4

\* Transferred from other Districts.

DEATH RATES PER 100,000 OF THE POPULATION

This District	...	...	...	...	...	...	3.1
Bedfordshire	...	...	...	...	...	...	7.7
England and Wales	...	...	...	...	...	...	13.1

# MASS RADIOGRAPHY

No visit was made to this District by the mobile unit during the year.

## IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

Immunisation and vaccination is now the responsibility of the County Council and the state of protection of the children of the District is indicated by the tables appearing below, which have been supplied by the Divisional Medical Officer.

### IMMUNISATION STATE OF THE CHILD POPULATION

	Under 1	1-4	5-9	10-14	Total under 15
Number of children completely protected on 31st December, 1954 (i.e. have received a Primary Course or Booster injection since 1st January, 1950) ... ..	29	1,118	1,721	1,124	3,992
Number of children partially protected (i.e. have been immunised but have not received inoculation since 1st January, 1950) ... ..	—	—	491	651	1,142
Total number of children immunised at any time ... ..	29	1,118	2,212	1,775	5,134

### VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR

	Under 1	1	2-4	5-14	15 and over	Total
Primary Vaccination ...	124	7	9	7	20	167
Re-Vaccination ... ..	—	—	—	8	40	48

### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 47

Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948 gives the Local Authority power to compulsorily remove to hospital or other suitable premises, persons suffering from grave chronic disease, and/or, who being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated, or living in insanitary conditions, being unable to devote to themselves or are not receiving from others, proper care and attention.

This legislation was not invoked during the year.



CLEANSING OF VERMINOUS PERSONS  
Public Health Act, 1936, Sec. 85

*Scabies*

By arrangements with the Borough of Bedford, infected persons are treated at the Borough Treatment Centre, Commercial Road, Bedford, at a cost of 10s. per treatment.

Where possible, arrangements are made for the other members of the household to attend for treatment as contacts at the same time as the infected person or persons.

During the year under review no treatments were given.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

No action was necessary under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS)

Regulations 1925, and Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936

No necessity for any action under these regulations arose during the year under review.

